

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01
SAJ-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05
/090 W

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R 180804Z FEB 77

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1966

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

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USNMR SHAPE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0049

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: FEBRUARY 17 EASTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

THE 126TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WAS
CHAIRIED BY CZECHOSLOVAK REP (MEISNER), WHO ALSO DELIVERED
THE ONLY STATEMENT. MEISNER'S PRESENTATION STRESSED THE EASTERN
REQUIREMENT FOR STAGE-ONE COMMITMENTS BY NON-US WESTERN DIRECT
PARTICIPANTS AS TO THE SCOPE AND TIMING OF THEIR STAGE-TWO
REDUCTIONS. MEISNER ALSO MENTIONED THE BENEFICIAL IMPACT WHICH
AGREEMENT TO THE NOVEMBER 1976 BUCHAREST NUCLEAR NON-FIRST
USE PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE ON THE NEGOTIATIONS AND PROFESSED EASTERN
WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS ASSOCIATED MEASURES AT "THE APPROPRIATE
TIME." THE MAIN POINTS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK STATEMENT, THE FULL
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TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM, WERE:

1. EASTERN PARTICIPANTS ARE DETERMINED TO DO EVERYTHING IN
THEIR POWER TO MAKE PROGRESS IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER
TO BROADEN DETENTE INTO THE MILITARY FIELD AND STRENGTHEN
SECURITY.

2. THE WARSAW PACT'S NOVEMBER 1976 BUCHAREST PROPOSAL FOR THE RENUNCIATION OF FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE ADOPTION OF WHICH WOULD FACILITATE THE ATTAINMENT OF AN AGREEMENT IN THESE TALKS, IS EVIDENCE OF EASTERN READINESS TO PROMOTE DISARMAMENT.

3. THE POLISH PLENARY STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 3 DEMONSTRATED THAT WESTERN PROPOSALS FOR ASYMMETRIC REDUCTIONS, FOR THE LIMITATION OF REDUCTIONS TO GROUND FORCES, FOR EXCLUDING GENERAL AIR FORCE AND ARMAMENT REDUCTIONS, AND FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF A SOVIET TANK ARMY WITH INADEQUATE COMPENSATION ARE ALL CONTRARY TO A JUST AND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT.

4. THE EASTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS LOCATED INSIDE THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS DECLARED THEIR READINESS IN NOVEMBER 1973 TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES BY A DEFINITE AMOUNT WITHIN A SPECIFIED TIME.

5. IN THEIR PROPOSAL OF FEBRUARY 19, 1976, EASTERN PARTICIPANTS, WITH THE AIM OF BRINGING THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES CLOSER TOGETHER, AGREED THAT THE US AND USSR ALONE COULD REDUCE FIRST PROVIDED THE OTHER DIRECT PARTICIPANTS UNDERTOOK TO FREEZE THEIR FORCES AND TO ACCEPT A GENERAL COMMITMENT TO TAKE PART IN REDUCTIONS IN A SECOND STAGE.

6. A COMPARISON OF THE ORIGINAL EASTERN POSITION AND THE FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL PROVES THAT THE EAST HAS GONE MORE THAN HALF WAY TO MEET THE WESTERN VIEW ON THE DIVISION OF REDUCTIONS INTO TWO STAGES.

7. THE WESTERN POSITION ON THIS ISSUE REMAINS LINKED TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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WEST'S UNACCEPTABLE PURSUIT OF UNILATERAL MILITARY ADVANTAGE.

8. MOREOVER, INDIVIDUAL STATES DO NOT UNDERTAKEN SPECIFIC OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE WESTERN APPROACH DESPITE THE FACT THAT THIS IS IMPLICITLY CONTRARY TO THE AGREED PRINCIPLE OF MUTUALITY OF REDUCTIONS.

9. THE EASTERN PARTICIPANTS CANNOT ACCEPT BLOC-TO-BLOC NEGOTIATIONS NOR THAT AN AGREEMENT MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT PLANS FOR WESTERN EUROPEAN POLITICAL AND MILITARY INTEGRATION.

10. THE EASTERN DEMAND THAT THE WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND CANADA PROVIDE GUARANTEE AS TO THE SCOPE AND TIMING OF THEIR REDUCTIONS IS JUSTIFIED BY THE LARGE FORCES THESE WESTERN NATIONS POSSESS AND REFLECTS, IN PART, THE VITAL SECURITY NEEDS OF THE CSSR.

11. EASTERN PARTICIPANTS CANNOT ACCEPT THE CHARGE MADE IN THE CANADIAN PLENARY STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 10 THAT THEY HAVE

IGNORED ASSOCIATED MEASURES.

12. PROVISION FOR SUCH MEASURES, WHOSE SIGNIFICANCE EASTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE NEVER DISPUTED, WAS MADE IN THE EASTERN DRAFT AGREEMENT OF NOVEMBER 1973.

13. EASTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE ALWAYS INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS SUCH MEASURES AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

14. THE MOST IMPORTANT MEASURE FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE WOULD BE AN AGREEMENT ON THE REDUCTION OF FORCES IN THE AREA, THEREBY DEEPENING DETENTE AND PROVIDING A FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR FURTHER PROGRESS IN ARMS CONTROL.

15. PROGRESS IN THIS ELEVENTH ROUND WILL BE POSSIBLE IF THE WEST RESPONDS SERIOUSLY TO THE EAST'S FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL, RENOUNCES ITS ATTEMPTS TO GAIN UNILATERAL MILITARY ADVANTAGE
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AND PROCEEDS ON THE BASIS THAT THE EXISTING RELATIONSHIP OF MILITARY FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE IS ONE OF APPROXIMATE PARITY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MBFRV00049
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770058-0468
Format: TEL
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770227/aaaaaydi.tel
Line Count: 142
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5f9e7cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3282547
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: FEBRUARY 17 EASTERN PLENARY STATEMENT THE 126TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WAS CHAIRED BY CZECHOSLOVAK REP (MEISNER), WHO ALSO DE
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5f9e7cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009